

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-20 EUR-25 RSR-01 /130 W

----- 039327

R 241103Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5030

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIETIANE

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 11342

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS PFOR,MARR, MOPS, CB. TH, US

SUBJECT:THAI NEWSPAPER COLUMN ENTITLED "TO WHAT
EXTENT IS AMERICA SINCERE TOWARDS THAILAND?

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF BANGKOK 11185 (USINFO)

SUMMARY: THE SUBJECT NEWSPAPER COLUMN ENUMERATES THE
RISKS THAILAND HAS TAKEN. AND THE ADVANTAGES THE US.
HAS RECEIVED, FROM THAILAND'S ALLIANCE WITH THE US AND
ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE INDOCHINA WAR. THE COLUMNIST
MINIMIZES CITES SPAIN AS A COUNTRY RECEIVING RENTS FOR
THE U.S. BASESTHERE, AND SAYS THE RECENT BAHT
REVALUATION SINGALS THAILAND'S INTENTIONS TO CHART A
MORE INDEPENDENT COURSE IN THE FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FOLLOWING COLUMN, ENTITLED "TO WHAT EXTENT IS
AMERICA SINCERE TOWARDS THAILAND? APPEARED IN THE THAI
LANGUAGE DAILY PRACHATHIPATHAI OF JULY 20 A USIS
TRANSLATION OF THE FULL TEXT FOLLOWS.

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2. BEGIN TEXT: THE AMERICAN CONGRESS HAS PASSED A RESOLUTION FOR THE US. MILITARY ROLE IN CAMBODIA TO BE ENDED ON AUGUST 15. IT IS THEREFORE REPORTED THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO CONTACT PRINCE SIHANOUK TO RETURN TO CAMBODIA, OR IT MIGHT RECOGNIZE HIM IN HIS FORMER POSITION AS CHIEF OF STATE OF THAT COUNTRY SO THAT AMERICA'S MILITARY ROLE IN INDOCHINA COULD BE COMPLETELY ENDED.

WHEN A REVOLUTION WAS STAGED IN CAMBODIA DURING PRINCE SIHANOUK'S ABSENCE FROM THE COUNTRY, AND AFTER A NEW GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE REESTABLISHED BETWEEN THAILAND AND CAMBODIA. WE OFFERED VARIOUS FORMS OF AID TO THE NEW CAMBODIA, STARTING WITH MEDICAL AID THEN GOING ON TO HELPING PROVIDE COURSES OF TRAINING TO CAMBODIAN SPECIAL FORCES, LEADING TO REPORTS THAT HAVE BEEN DENIED BY THE THAI GOVERNMENT ALLEGING THAT WE HAD SENT TROOPS TO HELP THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT FIGHT, ALL EXPENDITURE INCURRED BEING PROVIDED BY AMERICA.

THAILAND ALLOWED THE US. TO USE THAI AIRBASES TO SUPPORT THE WAGING OF WAR IN VIETNAM AND AFTER THE SIGNING OF A CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT IN THAT COUNTRY IT CONTINUED USING THE AIRBASES TO BOMB COMMUNIST FORCES IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA. AMERICAN PLANES WILL CONTINUED TAKING OFF ON BOMBING MISSIONS FROM THAI AIRBASES UP TO AUGUST 15.

ALL THESE FACTS SHOW THAILAND'S SINCERITY TOWARD AMERICA. THAT IS WILLING TO RUN ALL RISKS TO MUCH GREATER EXTENT THAN ANY OTHER ASIAN NATION. BUT WHAT ABOUT AMERICA?

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN VISITED THAILAND FAIRLY RECENTLY AND HE USED HONEYED WORDS WHEN HE STATED THAT THAILAND IS THE FIRST ASIAN COUNTRY THE U.S. CONCLUDED A TREATY WITH AND AMERICA HAS MUCH GREATER SINCERITY AND GOOD INTENTIONS TOWARD THAILAND THAN TOWARD ANY OTHER ASIAN NATION.

AFTER NIXON WAS DEFEATED BY JOHN F. KENNEDY IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, HE PAID 2-3 VISITS TO THAILAND AS
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A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL, THUS ENABLING HIM TO LEARN OF AND SEE WITH HIS OWN EYES VARIOUS PROBLEMS FACED BY THAILAND AND TO KNOW THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION REGARDING THAILAND'S SINCERITY TOWARD AMERICA.

THAI LEADERS OF EVERY GOVERNMENT HAVE FULLY REALIZED THAT AMERICA'S CONTACT WITH THAILAND AND THE AID GIVEN IT. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT WAS AID REQUESTED OR AID

FORCED ON IT IS BECAUSE THE U.S. HOPES TO DEPEND ON THAILAND IN VARIOUS WAYS. AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN AS STABLE AND LASTING UP TO THE PRESENT IF IT HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO DEPEND ON ALL-OUT COOPERATION FROM THAILAND.

THAILAND'S STRATEGIC POSITION IN THIS REGION HAS BEEN MOST USEFUL TO THE U.S. ESPECIALLY SINCE THAILAND HAS BEEN READY TO SINK OR SWIM WITH IT BECAUSE IT REALIZES THAT AMERICA IS THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD.

AMERICA HAS OBTAINED HUGE BENEFITS FROM THAILAND

AFTER THE END OF WORLD WAR II, THAILAND'S TIES TO AMERICA WERE EVEN CLOSER DUE TO THE GRATITUDE FELT TOWARD IT FOR HELPING IT AND PREVENTING IT FROM BEING A DEFEATED COUNTRY, AS WANTED BY BRITAIN. THAT WAS WHY THAILAND WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY TO RESPOND TO AMERICA'S APPEAL FOR COMBAT TROOPS TO HELP OPPOSE COMMUNIST AGGRESSION IN KOREA.

DURING THE VIETNAM WAR THAILAND MADE A CORRECT DECISION IN ALLOWING AMERICA TO USE ITS TERRITORY FOR MILITARY ACTIVITIES TO PREVENT THE COMMUNISTS FROM ESTABLISHING THEMSELVES STABLY IN NEIGHBORING AND NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES.

OPPOSITION AGAINST THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF AMERICAN BASES IN THAILAND AFTER THE INDOCHINA WAR IS ENDED CAN BE SEEN ALREADY, AND THIS IS BECAUSE THE THAI PEOPLE ARE UNGER

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGKOK 11342

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS PFOR, MARR, MOPS, CB. TH, US
SUBJECT: THAI NEWSPAPER COLUMN ENTITLED "TO WHAT
EXTENT IS AMERICA SINCERE TOWARDS THAILAND?"

BEGINNING TO SEE THE LACK OF SINCERITY ON THE PART OF
AMERICA TOWARD THAILAND. ON THE OTHERHAND, THE CON-
TINUED PRESENCE OF THESE BASES IN UNDER A PRINCIPLE
THAILAND APPROVES OF AND AMERICAN COMMITMENTS TONTHAILAND
ARE STILL BENEFICIAL AT LEAST FOR THE SECURITY AND STABILITY
OF OUR COUNTRY.

BUT AMERICA HAS NOT DISPLYED ITS SINNCERITY TOWARD US
CLEARLY AT ALL.

THAILAND HAS REUN THE RISK OF BEING A DIRECT ENEMY OF
NORTH VIETNAM, RESULTING IN THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DIS-
PLACED NORTH VIETNAMESE HERE BECOMING ENEMIES OF OUR
COUNTRY ALMOST AUTOMATICALLY. THEY HAD FELT GRATITUDE
TOWARD THAILAND ORIGINALLY WHEN WE GAVE THEM SYSLUM HERE
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WHILE THEIR COUNTRY WAS WAGING WAR AGAINST FRANCE IN
ORDER TO REGAIN INDEPENDENCE. BUT WHEN WE ALOWED AMERICA
TO USE THAI TERRIROTY TO BOMB AND DESTORY THEIR HOXELAND
IT CAUSED A STRONG REACTION AMONG THEM.

TURNING TO AMERICAN AID TO THAILAND, IT IS TIN THE FORM
OF LONG TERM LOANS INSTEAD OF GRANT AID, AND SHOULD
INTEREST THAT HAS TO BE PAID BE CALLCULATED. REPAYMENT
MIGHT BE DOUBLE THE AMOUNT OF THE LOAN GIVEN THE U.S.
GIVES WHEAT AS A FORM OF GRANT AID TO OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT
THE AID IT GIVES THAILAND IN THE FORM OF SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS AND USED GOODS IS CALCULATED IN TERMS
OF MONEY. IT IS ALSO SIAD THAT SOME WEAPONS THAILAND
ORDERS FOR ITS ARMED FORCES FORM AMERICA HAVE TO BE PAID
FOR ALSO.

WEAPONS AMERICAN PROVIDED FOR THAI ARMED FORCES AND POLICE
GIVE IT WHT OPPORTUNITY TO DISPOSE OF USED OF USED OR OUTDATED

WEAPONS. FURTHERMORE, RESERVE AMMUNITION PROVIDED WITH THEM IS LIMITED AND SHOULD AN EMERGENCY OCCUR THAILAND WOULD HAVE TO BEG THE U.S. FOR MORE AMMUNITION CONTINUALLY. THIS IS WHY THAILAND HAS SET UP A FACTORY FOR THE PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS ITSELF.

AMERICAN HAS MADE ALLEGATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD THAT THAILAND IS THE SOURCE OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS AND AMERICAN PLOTICIANS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE MADE MOST DAMAGING ALLEGATIONS. BUT NO SMALL NUMBER OF AMERICAN SERVICEMEN ARE BRINGING OPIUM, GANJA, HEROIN, AND MARIJUANAN INTO THAILAND TO INDULGE IN THEMSEVES, AS WELL AS TO SELL IN THAI MARKETS, USING DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY TO PROTECT THEM FROM ANY ACTION TAKEN BY THE THAI GOVERNMENT, AND THIS IS PROVED BY SENSATIONAL NEWS THAT MAKE BIG HEALINES IN THE LOCAL PRESS CONSTANTLY.

AMERICAN SERVICEMEN DIPLOMATS, AND BUSINESSMEN USE VARIOUS TRICKS AND RUSES TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM THAI LAW. WHEN THERE IS ANY CRIMINAL CASE THE AMERICAN SUSPECTS ARE TAKEN AWAY BY PLANE FOR THEIR CASES TO BE HEARD IN AMERICAN COURTS OF LAW. THE ACTIONS OF AMERICANS OF THE PRESENT DAY ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENNT FROM THE AVTIVITIES UNCLASSIFIED

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OF-- VERY GREAT AMERICAN-- FRANCIS B. SYRE--WHO EXERTED HIMSELF TO THE UTMOST OF HIS ABILITY TO HELP THAILAND RID ITSELF OF EXTRATERRIOTIAL CONDITIONS THAT EXISTED HERE IN THE PAST.

ANY THAI POLITICIAN WHO DOES NOT SUPPORT AMERICAN ANY THAI OFFICIALS WHO OBSTRUCTS AMERICA'S PRINCIPLE OF TAKING UNFAIR ADVANTAGES. OR ANY THAI MILITARY OFFICIALS WHO ADVERSELY CRITICIESES AMERICAN MILITARY AID POLICY, IS APT TO BE REWARDED BY AN INVITATION TO MAKE A "STUDY TOUR" OF THE U.S. AND THIS INCLUDES A LARGE NUMBER OF THAI NEWSPAPERMEN ALSO, BUT ON THEIR RETURN THEY SELDOM IF EVER "CHEER" AMERICA. ON THE OTHER HAND, AMERICA CONSIDERS THAT IT IS ONLY VERY ORDINARY WHEN ANY PERSON OR PERSONS "CHEER" IT CONTINUALLY.

WHEN THE U.S. USES AIRFIELDS, OR BASES OR STATIONS ITS MILITARY FORCES IN ANY OTHE COUNTRY IT HAS TO LEASE THOSE BASES OF AIRFIELDS AND IT HAS TO INCUR HIGH EXPENDITURE AND OTHER FORMS OF COMPENSATION FOR STATIONING MILITARY FORCES IN THEM AN EXAMPLE THAT CAN BE CITED IS SPAIN.

MANY ASIAN NATIONS FEEL GREAT BITTERNESS OVER AMERICAN AID BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF SINCERITY TOWARD

THEM EXAMPLES THAT CAN BE CITED INCLUDE JAPAN.
NATIONALIST CHINA, KOREA, AND EVEN SOUTH VIETNAM. A
PROCESSION WAS STAGEC ONCE TO DESTROY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN TAIPEI
IN SITE OF THE FACT THAT THE U.S.
HELPED BOOST THE STATUS OF THE REPULIC OF CHINA AND IS
PROTECTING IT TO THE PRESENT DAY. THUS DETERRING CHINA
ON THE MAINLAND.

IT IS MOST DIFFICULT FOR US TO FIND ANY SINCERITY
TOWARD US ON THE PART OF THIS NATION, WHICH IS A FRIEND
WE HAVE GIVEN ALL-OUT COOPERATION TO.

OUR REVALUATION OF THE BAHT ON JULY 15 SHOWS OUR FIRM
INTENTION TO STOP FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF AMERICA
WHICH HAS CAUSED WIDE GRUMBLING AND DISSATISFACTION.
END TEXT.
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